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SH#2281936

1761551N25A - SH-AD-32A (OAS 6/97)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition Of Service"

DATE: July 21, 2011
FILE: SH2281936

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: JOSEPH S. HARTSHORNE, COMMANDER
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSHERIFF

TO: JOSEPH M. GOODEN, CAPTAIN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE DISPOSITION:
DEPUTY SCOTT SORROW #[redacted]
PALMDALE STATION

On February 5, 2011, at approximately 2156 hours, deputies responded to a 911 call regarding a "Man with a Gun." The call indicated that a male adult, with whom the caller was not familiar with, was walking in the street with a gun. The caller also indicated that the male adult had "pointed" it at her kids.

Prior to the deputies arrival, the call was coordinated. Deputies Luter and Gillespie drove in from the east, while Deputy Sorrow drove in from the west. As they did, Deputy Sorrow arrived seconds before Deputies Luter and Gillespie. He saw the suspect walking east bound on Thomas Ave toward Pond Avenue; he was walking on the north sidewalk. Deputies Luter and Gillespie simultaneously turned from southbound Pond Ave, on to westbound Thomas. The suspect seeing them, turned around and began running westbound on Thomas Ave. Deputy Sorrow positioned his marked radio car on the north side of the street facing the suspect.

As the suspect ran, Deputy Sorrow got out of his car and pointed his gun at the suspect. He ordered him to get on the ground. The suspect ignored Deputy Sorrow's orders and ran past him. Deputies Luter and Gillespie drove past Deputy Sorrow and the suspect, in an effort to cut off the suspect. As they parked their car on the north east corner of Thomas and 32nd street, the suspect stopped and had his hands in his waistband area. The suspect continued to ignore the deputies commands to get on the ground. He suddenly turned back toward Deputy Sorrow and while doing so, removed his hands from his waistband as if he was retrieving a gun. Deputy Sorrow believing he had a gun, fired one round striking the suspect. Suspect White fell to the ground.

Suspect White continued to be un-cooperative with the deputies and refused to obey orders to show his hands. Eventually, suspect White did relinquish his hands and he was handcuffed.

He was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department station #137, and subsequently transported to Antelope Valley Hospital via ambulance.

On July 14, 2011, the Executive Force Review Committee convened and conducted a review regarding the facts of this case. The applicable policies that were evaluated by the committee were: MPP §§ 3-01/025.00, Use of Force; 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force; 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force; and 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards.

Concerning:

MPP § 3-01/025.00, Use of Force, MPP § 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force, and MPP § 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force, the Committee determined that the force used by Deputy Scott Sorrow was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with Department policy.

MPP § 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards, the Committee determined that the tactics employed by Deputy Sorrow in this incident were within Department Policy.

JSH:RSP/rsp

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition Of Service"

DATE: July 15, 2011
FILE: SH2281936

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: JOSEPH S. HARTSHORNE, COMMANDER
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSHERIFF

TO: BOBBY D. DENHEM, CAPTAIN
PALMDALE STATION

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS HIT SHOOTING**

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of the review committee's findings and recommendations concerning the use of force incident which occurred on February 5, 2011.

The Committee met on July 14, 2011 and consisted of me, Commander Eric G. Parra, Custody Operations Division, and Commander Michael J. Rothans, Field Operations Division III. The Committee determined the use of force by Deputy Scott Sorrow #[redacted] was within Department policy.

Please advise Deputy Sorrow of this finding.

JSH:RSP/rsp

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Officer Involved Shooting

Report Date:	Bureau/Station/Facility:	Admin. Invest.?	Hit?
02-07-11	FOR 1 / Palmdale Sheriff's Station	☐	☒

Incident Information

URN: 011-01871-2603-051	Date: 02-05-11 Time: 2156 Hours
City or Station: Palmdale	Nature of Incident: Deputy Sorrow responded to the location regarding a "man with a gun" call. While driving to the location, he saw the suspect walking west bound on Thomas Ave. As he attempted to contact the suspect, the suspect was uncooperative. Deputy Sorrow ordered the suspect to show his hands. The suspect refused. The suspect reached into his waistband and turned toward Deputy Sorrow. Fearing for his safety, he fired one round striking the suspect. the suspect was arrested.
Location: 3200 Block of Thomas Ave	

Location Type (*circle one or more*): Backyard, Beach, Business, Freeway, Industrial, Park, Parking Lot, Residence, Rural, School, (Street) — circled; Other: ______

Lighting (*circle only one*): Darkness, Daylight, Other, (Street Lights) — circled

Weather (*circle only one*): (Clear) — circled, Cloudy, Fog, Rain

Distance: 15-20 Feet

Incident Type (*circle one or more*): Accidental, (Armed Person) — circled, Fleeing Suspect, Foot Pursuit, Gun Take Away, Moving Vehicle, Sniper/Ambush, Startle, Struggle Involved, Traffic Stop, Unarmed Person, Unintentional, Vehicle Pursuit, Warrant Service, Warning Shot, Other: ______

Initiated by (*circle only one*): Arrest Warrant, (Call) — circled, Observation, One Person Unit, Other, Search Warrant, Two Person Unit

Prior Activity (*circle only one*): Detective, Inmate Transport, Other, (Routine Patrol) — circled

Aero Unit? ☐ Canine Unit? ☐

Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy	Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect
One	None

Employee Witnesses

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	ShiftType (*circle only one*)
[redacted]	Luter	Michael	J	EM (PM) Day — PM circled	(Regular) Overtime Off Duty — Regular circled
[redacted]	Gillespie	Nathan	C	EM (PM) Day — PM circled	(Regular) Overtime Off Duty — Regular circled
				EM PM Day	Regular Overtime Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph

Supervisors

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(*circle one or more*)
[redacted]	Wright	Mark	A	(On Duty) — circled, Present during shooting, Witness to shooting, Involved in shooting
				On Duty, Present during shooting, Witness to shooting, Involved in shooting

Watch Sergeant

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Turrill	Kevin	J

Watch Commander

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Brandon	Glenn	L

PSTD Use Only

SH # ______________

Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 011-01871-2603-051

Rollout Information

Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Date Submitted	Date of Recommendation
02-05-11	2300		

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I
[redacted]	Fredericks	Stefenie	R
[redacted]	Graham	Scott	A
[redacted]	Rossi	John	E

Shooting / Force Information

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Brand

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

Caliber

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) .22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-60 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

FORCE APPLIED *(one code per block)*

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S1	E1	UC					NN	NN
E1	S1	FH	BR	9	Y	Y	GS	CH

SH-R-438A rev. 3/07

See Front Side

Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 011-01871-2603-051

Involved Employee

E 1

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name: Sorrow	First Name: Scott	M.I.: E
Sex: M Race: H	Rank: Deputy	Unit Assignment: Palmdale	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 263H
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): EM **(PM)** Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): **(Regular)** Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #: Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:	Duty Time (hrs): [redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest; Plain Clothes w/ Vest; Raid Jacket no Vest; Raid Jacket w/ Vest; Uniform no Vest; **(Uniform w/ Vest)**	Other Factors:
Age: Height: Weight:			
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings? [I] Number of Prior Shootings: I Directed Force: [redacted]
Weapons Fired Brand: Beretta Caliber: 9MM # Shots: 1		Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots:	
Field Training Officer Emp #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
Field Training Officer Emp #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

E __

Employee #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
Sex: Race:	Rank:	Unit Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): EM PM Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): Regular Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #: Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:	Duty Time (hrs):	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest; Plain Clothes w/ Vest; Raid Jacket no Vest; Raid Jacket w/ Vest; Uniform no Vest; Uniform w/ Vest	Other Factors:
Age: Height: Weight:			
Range Qualification Date:	PPC Qualification Date:	Laser Training Date:	
Certified with Weapon Used? ☐	Patrol Certification? ☐	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings? ☐ Number of Prior Shootings: Directed Force: ☐
Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots:		Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots:	
Field Training Officer Emp #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
Field Training Officer Emp #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

E __

Employee #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
Sex: Race:	Rank:	Unit Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): EM PM Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): Regular Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #: Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:	Duty Time (hrs):	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest; Plain Clothes w/ Vest; Raid Jacket no Vest; Raid Jacket w/ Vest; Uniform no Vest; Uniform w/ Vest	Other Factors:
Age: Height: Weight:			
Range Qualification Date:	PPC Qualification Date:	Laser Training Date:	
Certified with Weapon Used? ☐	Patrol Certification? ☐	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings? ☐ Number of Prior Shootings: Directed Force: ☐
Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots:		Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber: # Shots:	
Field Training Officer Emp #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
Field Training Officer Emp #:	Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Officer Involved Shooting
Suspect Information

URN: 011-01871-2603-051

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name White	First Name Romarion	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: M Race: B	Street Address: [redacted]	City [redacted]	State & Zip Code: [redacted]
Work Phone: [redacted]	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: 43 D.O.B. 09-28-67	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking # 2324127	Primary Charge: 245 (A)(2) P.C.	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☒	Apprehended? ☒	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? [redacted]
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S__

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S__

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S__

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

See Other Side

4INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING: HIT
SH# 2281936
URN 011-01871-2603-145

DATE / TIME / LOCATION

Saturday, February 5, 2011
2156 hours
32nd Street East / Thomas Ave, Palmdale

On February 5, 2011, at approximately 2156 Hours, deputies responded to a 911 call at [redacted] in Palmdale regarding a "Man with a Gun " call. The call indicated that a male adult, with whom the caller was not familiar with, was walking in the street with a gun. The caller also indicated that the male adult had "pointed" it at her kids. Further investigation revealed that the caller was the [redacted] of [redacted] who is a friend of Victim [redacted]

Victim [redacted] said that he was driving his friend [redacted] home. He was driving east bound Thomas Ave approaching [redacted] when he saw the suspect standing in the middle of the street. As he drove toward him, the suspect did not move out of the way of his car. He had to drive on the wrong side of the street in order to not hit the suspect. He said the suspect stood in the middle of the street like a statue. He dropped off his friend and drove back west bound on Thomas Ave. The suspect was now standing on the south sidewalk. As he passed, the suspect walked into the street. He saw a black hand gun in the suspect's right hand. The suspect pointed the gun at him. He called his friend [redacted]" and told him to call 911.

IAB Note: A CD containing a recording of the 911 calls are included in this case book. See **Exhibit B.**

Prior to the deputies arrival, the call was coordinated. Deputies Luter and Gillespie drove in from the east, while Deputy Sorrow drove in from the west. As they did, Deputy Sorrow arrived seconds before Deputies Luter and Gillespie. He saw the suspect walking east bound on Thomas Ave toward Pond Ave. He was walking on the north sidewalk. Deputies Luter and Gillespie simultaneously turned from southbound Pond Ave, on to westbound Thomas. The suspect seeing them, turned around and began running westbound on Thomas Ave. Deputy Sorrow positioned his marked radio car on the north side of the street facing the suspect. As the suspect ran, Deputy Sorrow got out of his car and pointed his gun at the suspect. He ordered him to get on the ground. The suspect ignored Deputy Sorrow's orders and ran past him. Deputies Luter and Gillespie drove past Deputy Sorrow and the suspect, in an effort to cut off the suspect. As they parked their car on the north east corner of Thomas and 32nd street, the suspect stopped and had his hands in his waistband area. The suspect continued to ignore the deputies commands to get on the ground. He suddenly turned back toward Deputy Sorrow and while doing so, removed his

hands from his waistband as if he was retrieving a gun. Deputy Sorrow believing he had a gun, fired one round striking the suspect. Suspect White fell to the ground.

Suspect White continued to be un-cooperative with the deputies, and refused to obey orders to show his hands. Eventually, suspect White did relinquish his hands and he was handcuffed.

He was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department station #137, and subsequently transported to Antelope Valley Hospital via ambulance.

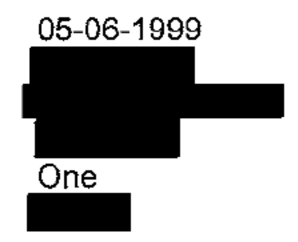
The incident was documented on a sheriff's crime report, bearing File Number 011-01871-2603-145. The investigation was being handled by Homicide Bureau Personnel. Internal Affairs Bureau Lieutenant Stefanie Fredericks was notified. Sergeants Scott Graham and John Rossi responded to Palmdale Station, to conduct an administrative review of the incident. The following review is based on written documentation, interviews of witnesses, and involved deputies.

IAB SHOOTING / FORCE TEAM

Lieutenant Stefanie Fredericks, Sergeant Scott Graham, and Sergeant John Rossi.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL

Sorrow, Scott, Deputy #[redacted] MW/[redacted] 5-09 195 Right Handed
Patrol - Palmdale Station
Region I
Date of Employment: 05-06-1999
Date Assigned to Patrol: [redacted]
Date Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Date of Range Qualification [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents: One
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]



SUSPECT

White, Romarion MB/43 5-09 140

The Consolidated Criminal History System reveals Suspect White [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Suspect Wheeler is a member of the "83 Street" Crip Gang.

> **IAB Note:** Suspect White's Criminal History Report is included in this case book. See **Exhibit A, page 73**. Photographs of Suspect White are also included. **See Exhibit A, page 33 and 69.**

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

Luter, Michael #[redacted], Deputy Sheriff

Gillespie, Nathan #[redacted] Deputy Sheriff

NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES



[redacted] MW / [redacted]

[redacted] FH / [redacted]

[redacted] FH / [redacted]

[redacted] MH / [redacted]

> **IAB Note:** Several of the neighboring houses were canvassed for potential witnesses. None of the persons contacted saw the incident, several only heard it. Their statements are documented on several supplemental reports. See **Exhibit A, pages 51-59**.

INJURIES

Suspect White:

Sustained a single gunshot wound to his right chest.

Deputy Personnel:

None.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

One expended 9MM casing was found on the north side walk of Thomas Ave.

IAB Note: For a complete listing of physical evidence collected at the scene, see **Exhibit A, pages 1- 2.**

DISTANCE

Fifteen to twenty feet.

INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS

On February 05, 2011 the Internal Affairs Bureau's Force and Shooting Response Team responded to the City of Palmdale regarding a deputy involved hit shooting. The team consisted of Lieutenant Stefanie Fredericks, Sergeants Scott Graham and John Rossi. Attorney Angelica Arias of the Office of Independent Review also responded.

IAB NOTE: IAB Lieutenant Stefanie Fredericks checked to see that the watch commander, Lieutenant Brandon took reasonable steps to ensure the involved and witness personnel did not discuss the incident among themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators, and that the involved and witness personnel did not collectively consult with their attorney or representative. In addition, IAB Lieutenant Stefanie Fredericks checked to see if the watch commander attempted to have the involved and witness personnel gather in the company of a supervisor until they have provided a statement to the assigned investigators.

Upon their arrival they learned that there was an active command post and containment of the crime scene area. Investigators learned of the series of events which occurred, culminated into a deputy involved, hit shooting involving Deputy Scott Sorrow. The personnel involved in the incident were uniformed patrol deputies.

The criminal investigation was handled by Homicide Bureau Detectives Steve Rubino, and Peter Hecht. They entered the crime scene with Sheriff's Crime Lab Personnel. They documented their actions and findings on Supplemental Reports. See **Exhibit A, pages 1- 2.**

IAB Note: Photographs of the scene are included in this case book. **See Exhibit D.** A sketch of the scene is also included, **See Exhibit A, page 17.**

REVIEW OF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

Internal Affairs Investigator Scott Graham reviewed the radio broadcast during the incident. On the recording at (2154:34 Hours), 263H puts himself "Code 6" at the location. At (2154:44 Hours), Deputies Luter and Gillespie, 263F put themselves 10-97 at the location. At (2155:35 Hours), Deputy Sorrow, unit 263H is heard stating that he had been involved in a shooting along with his location. At (2155:58 Hours), Deputy Luter, 263F advises they are 10-97 and takes over the radio transmission.
He begins to contain the area, and requests paramedics for the suspect. He also advises that the deputy is accounted for an is "ok."

He continues to set up a containment and also advises that the suspect is "un-cooperative."

During Deputy Luter's radio transmissions, in the background, you can hear Deputy Sorrow giving the suspect several commands to show his hands. At (2157:15 Hours), you can still hear Deputy Sorrow giving commands to "turn around" while Deputy Luter continues directing units to the location.

> **IAB Note:** Recording of Dispatch Fifteen emergency radio traffic is included in this case book. See **Exhibit C**.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

It was dark out with street lights on when the incident occurred (2156 hours).

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL

Deputy Sorrow:

Service Weapon Type:	Beretta 9 millimeter Semi-Automatic
Rounds Fired:	One
Type of Ammunition Used:	Department Issued Luger (Win) Ranger SXT 147gr.
Date Employee Last Qualified:	[redacted]

> **IAB Note:** An examination of Deputy Sorrow's firearm by Homicide detectives indicated he had shot a total of one round. One expended, 9 MM casing was recovered at the scene. **See Exhibit A, page 1**. The firearm was tested by Sheriff's firearms examiners and found to be functional. **See Exhibit A, page 24.**

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT

None recovered.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

None

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR/CHARGES FILED

Investigator: Homicide Bureau - Detective Mitch Robison and Kathleen Gallagher.

Charges: Resist / Obstruct a Peace Officer in the Performance of Their Duties, 148 PC, Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance, 11550(A) H&S.

Case filed at Antelope Valley Court - Case Number VA115239

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS

Involved Deputy Scott Sorrow was interviewed by Homicide Detectives Mitch Robison and Kathleen Gallagher at Palmdale Station on February 6, 2011 at 0207 hours. The interview was audio-recorded.

Deputy Sorrow said that he was the assisting unit responding to a "Man with a Gun" call on Thomas Ave. Deputy Sorrow coordinated the call with Deputy Luter. He said he would come from the west and Deputy Luter would come from the east. As he drove on Thomas Ave from Via De Rio, he saw a male matching the description in the call walking down the street. He was the only male, and he was walking eastbound on the north sidewalk. Deputy Sorrow illuminated the suspect with his spotlight. At the same time, Deputies Luter and Gillespie turned westbound on Thomas Ave from Pond Ave.

> **IAB NOTE:** The description given in the call was, Male Adult, unknown clothing description carrying a gun. An update in the call indicated that the suspect was wearing dark clothing and wearing white shoes.

Deputy Sorrow said that as he drove toward the suspect who was walking eastbound, the suspect never saw him coming from behind. When the suspect saw Deputies Luter and Gillespie's radio car, he turned and ran westbound toward Deputy Sorrow. Deputy Sorrow already had his gun out, put the car in "park," got out of the car and attempted to detain the suspect at gun point. Deputy Sorrow ordered the suspect to put his hands up but the suspect said, "No No No," and continued running.

Deputy Sorrow said he was out of his car with his gun pointed at the suspect when he heard Deputy Luter's car driving behind him. Deputy Sorrow ordered the suspect to "get on the ground."

As Deputies Luter and Gillespie passed the suspect, the suspect stopped. He quickly turned to his left while bringing his hands from his waistband. Fearing the suspect was retrieving a gun, Deputy Sorrow fired one round at the suspect striking him in the chest. Deputy Sorrow said that the suspect fell "straight back and landed on his head, straight back on his back."

Deputy Sorrow stated, "*I couldn't see his hands, his hands were in his waist area, couldn't see his hands at all. He turns to his left and he brings his hands right up from the waist area as if he, you know, fearing that he had, he had a gun on him....I believe he was at that point retrieving a firearm from his waist. Fearing he had a gun, he had a gun in his hand, he turned towards me and that's when I, I shot him.*"

Deputy Sorrow said that after the shooting, he detained the suspect at gun point, along with Deputies Luter and Gillespie. The suspect did not comply with their orders to show his hands. He continued to move his hands into his waistband area. While this was taking place, Deputy Sorrow was able to put out emergency radio traffic regarding the shooting and his location. Deputy Luter took over radio communications. Eventually the suspect was handcuffed.

Deputy Scott Sorrow was interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Scott Graham and Frank Quichocho at Palmdale station on April 1, 2011 at 1930 hours. The interview was audio recorded and Deputy Sorrow did not have representation.

Deputy Sorrow answered questions relative to tactics.

Deputy Sorrow was asked what his "mind set" is based on his experience while responding to a "Man with a Gun" call. He stated, "*My, my awareness level is going to increase. I'm going to be more on point with my tactics. More focused on my surroundings, knowing where I'm at. Knowing where my partners are, where they are rolling in from. And just basically watching what the suspect's hands, watching his motions, his movements and especially his hands.*"

Deputy Sorrow said that he utilized the "high beam" headlights, as well as his spotlight to illuminate the suspect.

He was asked how far the suspect was from him, when he first saw him. Deputy Sorrow indicated approximately 50-60 feet when he turned onto Thomas Ave from Via Del Rio.

Deputy Sorrow said that from where he initially stopped his car, to where the suspect was running toward him, there was approximately 30 - 40 feet between them.

Deputy Sorrow said that as the suspect was running toward him, he gave several commands to stop. The suspect stopped for a second, said "No No," and continued running west.

Deputy Sorrow said that as the suspect ran past him, he was no closer than10 feet.

He said he was less than 25 feet from the suspect when he shot.

Deputy Sorrow said he was aware of his shooting background, and he did gain target acquisition utilizing his sights.

When asked if he used cover or concealment, he said that he was approximately five feet away from his car when he shot. He said that when the suspect ran past him, he took a few steps toward the suspect because he thought he was about to go in foot pursuit.

Deputy Sorrow said that he has had persons run from him in the past. He said that this situation was similar to past incidents, until the suspect abruptly turned back toward him.

IAB Note: During his interview, Deputy Sorrow was shown aerial photographs of the scene. Deputy Sorrow was asked to mark his, and the suspect's position, when the incident occurred. See **Miscellaneous Documents**.

For Deputy Sorrow's complete statements, refer to his verbatim interview transcripts.

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

Luter, Michael #[redacted]

Witness Deputy Michael Luter was interviewed by Homicide detectives Mitch Robison and Kathy Gallagher, on February 6, 2010. The interview was audio-recorded.

Deputy Luter said that they were responding to a "Man with a Gun" call, and they had the handle on it. They coordinated the call with Deputy Sorrow as the assisting unit. He told Deputy Sorrow to come from the west, and they would come from the east. As they approached the location, the call was updated that the suspect was now at Thomas Ave and Pond Ave.

As they arrived, they drove north on Pond Ave to check for the suspect. As Deputy Luter drove half way in the cul-de-sac, he did not see anyone. He turned around and went back onto Thomas Ave. When he did this, he saw Deputy Sorrow's radio approaching 32nd Street West.

He saw Deputy Sorrow's spotlight was on illuminating a person on the sidewalk. Deputy Luter drove toward Deputy Sorrow. He saw that the suspect appeared "as if he started to run" west on Thomas Ave. He accelerated so that if the suspect was going to run, they could get an "eye" on him. As he passed Deputy Sorrow's car, he saw the top

of Deputy Sorrow starting to exit the car. Deputy Luter positioned his car facing a north west direction at 32nd Street West and Thomas Ave. He said the suspect looked as if he was going to run. He was approximately 15-20 feet from Deputy Sorrow. Deputy Luter said he saw the suspect turn. As the suspect turned, his hands were in his stomach area and he turned to his left. Deputy Luter said as he is exiting his car with his gun out, he heard a gunshot. When he heard the gun shot, he pointed his gun at the suspect and saw the suspect's hands were still in his waist area. He lost sight of Deputy Sorrow. He stated the following, *"I lose sight of Deputy Sorrow, so at this point I don't know if he's been shot at or shot and I see the suspect kind of take a step back and I can't remember if his hands came up or maintained his stomach and he just kind of fell flat on his back towards the sidewalk facing westbound. And then at that point, I heard the radio traffic 998 go out, which gave me a little reas...I was reassured that Deputy Sorrow probably shot the round and it wasn't him being shot at."*

The suspect was detained at gun point while they put out radio traffic. The suspect kept his hands on his waistband. Deputy Luter said of the suspect, "He wouldn't listen to anything that anybody, any direction we were giving him and he just kept maintaining his hands by his waistband the whole time."

Deputy Luter said that he saw something hanging out of the suspect's shirt and he believed it was a belt.

The suspect finally brought his hands up just barely above his chest area. They slowly approached him, grabbed his hands, and put him in handcuffs. They rolled him over and checked him for weapons.

Deputy Luter was asked if the suspect's movement toward Deputy Sorrow was relatively quick. He responded saying, "It was so fast it was like it, it just all...it was like a just snap. I mean one second it felt like he was exiting his car, the guy turned, we exit our car and the, the shot and everything is like simultaneous."

For his complete statement, refer to the verbatim transcript, included in this case book.

Deputy Michael Luter was interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Scott Graham at Palmdale station on May 10, 2011 at 1114 hours. The interview was audio recorded and Deputy Luter did not have representation.

Deputy Luter answered questions relating to the handcuffing of suspect White. He said that the suspect fell on the ground and his hands were near his waistband area. He kept his hands there for "quite some time." The deputies gave the suspect orders to take his hands away. Eventually his hands came up toward his side. Deputy Luter described them as, "almost up in the air but his elbows more towards his rib area, but his hands outward from the body towards myself and Deputy Gillespie."

When the suspect's hands came out, in order to control his hands and make sure he did not have a weapon in his waistband, Deputy Luter controlled the suspects right arm, and Deputy Gillespie controlled the left arm. They told the suspect to roll over a few times but he never did.

Deputy Luter said that the suspect was not "non-complaint", but it appeared as if the bottom portion of his body was not moving. Deputy Gillespie and Luter rolled the suspect onto his stomach, placed his hands behind his back, and Deputy Reader #[redacted] applied the handcuffs.

Gillespie, Nathan #[redacted]

Witness Deputy Nathan Gillespie was interviewed by Homicide detectives Mitch Robison and Kathy Gallagher, on February 6, 2010. The interview was audio-recorded.

Deputy Gillespie said that they were responding to a "Man with a Gun" call. He said that he was the "Book Man" in the car. As they were driving westbound on Thomas Ave, Deputy Sorrow's car came into view. As the cars approached each other, he saw a male walking on the north side walk. As they passed Deputy Sorrow' s car, he lost sight of the suspect for a moment. He looked down and "drew" his weapon. As he was looking down, he heard a "pop." He looked up and saw the suspect laying on his back.

Deputy Gillespie describes what he did next: *"I got out of my vehicle and at that moment I didn't know exactly what happened, I didn't know if Deputy Sorrow had been shot or, or what happened. And then I heard 998 and I looked at Deputy Sorrow and I saw him on his radio. I saw the suspect when he was lying on the ground, his hands were like around his waistband and his waistband looked like it, it was bulged, like a bulge. I, I pointed my weapon at the suspect and I ordered him to have him put his hands up in the...away from his waistband."*

Deputy Gillespie said that the suspect did not comply with any orders. He stated, *"He kind of looked at us with a blank stare. We ordered him multiple times. We were telling him to lay on his stomach and then we, we...the suspect finally lifted his hands up above or away from his waistband and then that's when we grabbed the suspect, Deputy Luter and I grabbed the suspect's hands and put him onto his stomach."*

Deputy Gillespie said that the suspect was eventually handcuffed.

For his complete statement, refer to the verbatim transcript, included in this case book.

CIVILIAN WITNESSES

Witness [redacted] was contacted by Deputy Ashley Hill #[redacted] He told her the following: He said that he was driving his friend [redacted] home. He was driving east bound Thomas Ave approaching [redacted] when he saw the suspect standing

in the middle of the street. As he drove toward him, the suspect did not move out of the way of his car. He had to drive on the wrong side of the street in order to not hit the suspect. He said the suspect stood in the middle of the street like a statue. He dropped off his friend and drove back west bound on Thomas Ave. The suspect was now standing on the south sidewalk. As he passed, the suspect walked into the street. He saw a black hand gun in the suspect's right hand. The suspect pointed the gun at him. He called his friend "[redacted]" and told him to call 911.

IAB Note: This summary was taken from the original supplemental report written by Deputy Hill. **See Exhibit A, page 46.**

The residential neighborhood near the shooting scene, on Thomas Ave, was canvassed for any potential witnesses. The area was canvassed by deputies from Palmdale station.

Several of the residents stated they heard noises, but none actually witnessed the shooting, or had any knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The names of the residents contacted, and a summary of their interviews, are documented on Supplemental Reports which are included in this case book. **See Exhibit A, pages 51-60.**

Witness [redacted] was contacted by Deputy Collin Reddy #[redacted] She told him the following: At approximately 2140 hours, she was driving westbound on Thomas Ave just west of Pond Ave. She saw a male black adult (Suspect White), walk from the north side walk of Thomas Ave directly in the middle of the street in front of her car. She saw he was staggering and swaying as if he was drunk. She waved for him to move, but he did not. She drove around him and as she passed him, he ran after her waving both hands in the air. She continued to drive away and lost sight of the suspect.

IAB Note: This summary was taken from the original supplemental report written by Deputy Reddy. **See Exhibit A, page 52.**

Witness [redacted] was contacted by Deputy David Shea #[redacted] She told him the following: As she and her [redacted] Witness [redacted] arrived home, she saw a male black adult (Suspect White), standing in the middle of the street in front of her home. She said that the suspect was staring at the sky, and swinging his hands up and down. She said that he walked west bound on Thomas Ave and out of view. Several minutes later she saw a Sheriff's car drive past her house west bound. Moments later she heard a single gun shot.

IAB Note: This summary was taken from the original supplemental report written by Deputy Shea. **See Exhibit A, page 58-59.**

Witness [redacted] was contacted by Deputy David Shea #[redacted] He told him the following: As he returned home with his [redacted] Witness [redacted] he saw a male black adult (Suspect White), standing in the middle of the street in front of his house. He said the suspect was wandering around and appeared as if he was "on drugs."

Witness [redacted] entered his house. A few minutes later he heard a single gun shot while inside his home.

> **IAB Note:** This summary was taken from the original supplemental report written by Deputy Shea. **See Exhibit A, page 59-60.**

SUSPECT'S STATEMENTS

Suspect Romarion White was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detective Mitch Robison, on February 10, 2011. The interview was conducted at Antelope Valley Hospital. Suspect White was advised of is Miranda rights. He said he understood them and agreed to talk. The interview was audio recorded.

Suspect White told Detective Robison that he did not use drugs, but he did drink some beer. He said that he did not have a gun the night of the incident. He told Detective Robison he did not remember the police "shouting" at him. He said that prior to the police arrival, he was yelling at some kids in the neighborhood because they were making a lot of noise. Suspect White did not remember any details of his contact with the police.

For a summary of Suspect White's interview, refer to the supplemental report authored by Detective Robison. See **Exhibit A, page 12**.

For his complete statement, refer to the verbatim transcript, included in this case book.